

Documents should be sealed when a party's interest in keeping the information contained therein confidential outweighs the right of public access to judicial documents. *See, e.g., Stone v. Univ. of Maryland Med. Sys. Corp.*, 855 F.2d 178 (4th Cir. 1988); *Ashcraft v. Conoco, Inc.*, 218 F.3d 288, 302 (4th Cir. 2000). The United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit has directed that district courts should consider the following factors when determining whether to exercise their discretion to seal documents: (1) "whether the records are sought for improper purposes, such as promoting public scandals or unfairly gaining a business advantage;" (2) "whether release would enhance the public's understanding of an important historical event; and" (3) "whether the public has already had access to the information contained in the records." *Va. Dept. of State Police v. Wash. Post*, 386 F.3d 567, 575 (4th Cir. 2004).

Here, there could be an "unfair business advantage" gained by any party who had access to Steves' or JELD-WEN's trade secret and confidential information. The public has never had access to the information at issue and it is routinely kept in confidence in the course of business. These are appropriate grounds for sealing.

Local Rule 5(c), Section 4 – Statement as to the period of time the party seeks to have the matter maintained under seal

JELD-WEN requests that the documents designated as “Highly Confidential” and discussions thereof be filed under seal, pursuant to the Stipulated Protective Order (ECF No. 25), entered February 20, 2020.

JELD-WEN believes that the trade secret and confidential information should remain permanently sealed in the absence of a ruling that the information is not confidential.

JELD-WEN’s grounds for requesting that its disclosures about Steves’ door customers be filed under seal are that the information is highly confidential and commercially sensitive information to which the public has not had access and that Steves or JELD-WEN would be harmed if the public did have access to such information.

The documents sought to be filed under seal are being filed electronically with the Court contemporaneously, as required by Local Civil Rule 5.

Dated: April 24, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

JELD-WEN, Inc.

By counsel

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the April 24, 2020 the following counsel of record have been served using the CM/ECF system, which will then send a notification of such filing (NEF) to the registered participants as identified on the NEF to receive electronic service, including:

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